hyakujitsu no bara-
maiden rose, chapter 22

inariya fusanosuke

translation- chou, keksimonsteri, yugiri
graphics- chou

ADULTS ONLY
CONTENT RATED 18+

百日の薔薇

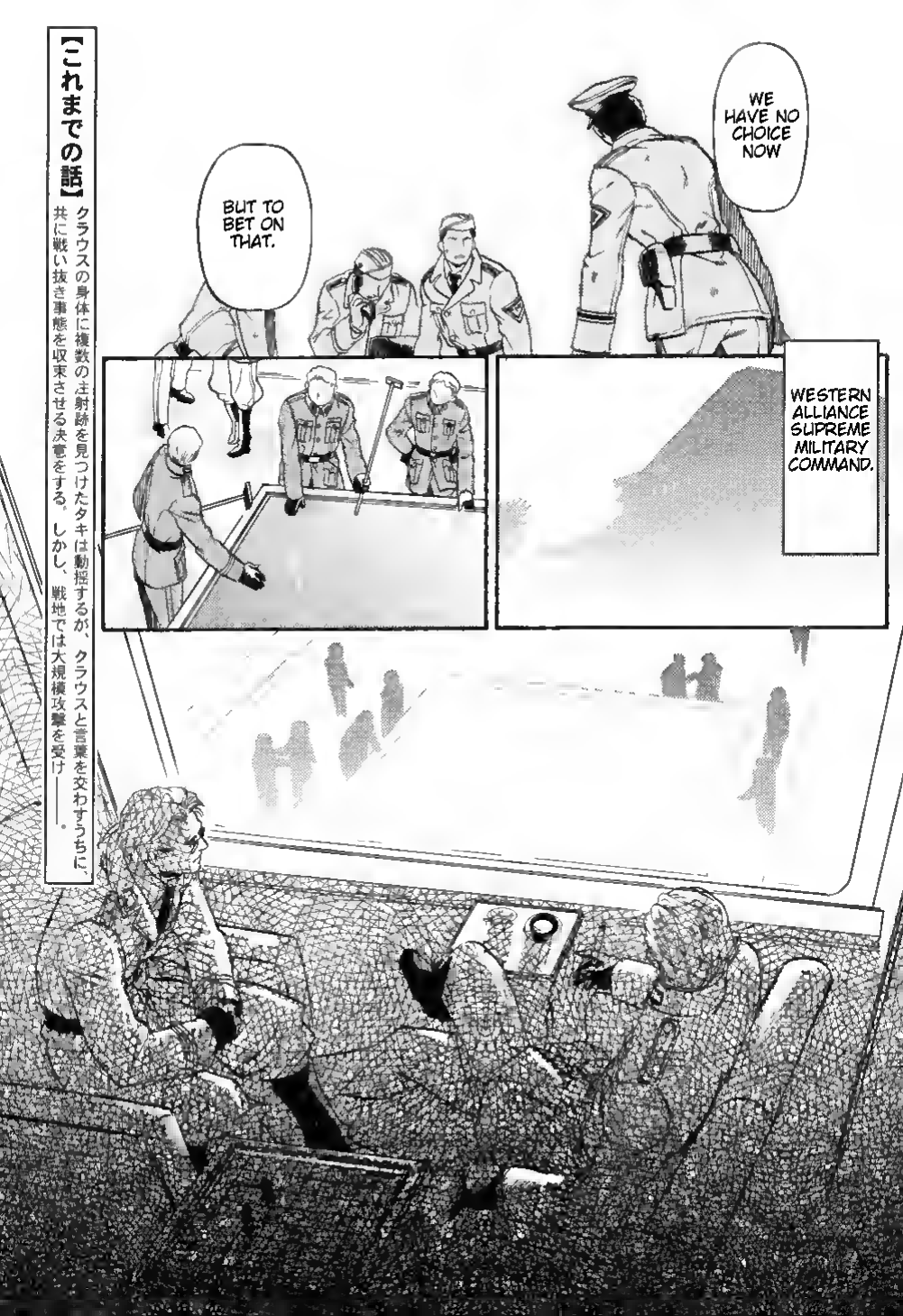
HYAKUJITSU NO BARA

稲荷家房之介

mariya fusanosuke

【タキ・レイゼン】機甲師団「ローゼンメイデン」師団長。敵の拠点に自ら出撃する、有能な指揮官。

【クラウス・フォン・ヴォルフシュタット】タキの元学友で今はタキに仕える騎士。周りからは狂犬とも呼ばれている。



【これまでの話】クラウスの身体に複数の注射跡を見つけたタキは動揺するが、クラウスと言葉を交わすうちに、共に戦い抜き事態を収束させる決意をする。しかし、戦地では大規模攻撃を受け――。

WELL, IT'S STARTED THEN.
SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND.
YOU
THERE'S A BATTLE
I'D LIKE YOU TO LET ME HANDLE.

I WON'T MOVE A SINGLE SOLDIER.
FROM HERE ON OUT, WE WON'T HAVE ANY SPARE FORCES TO ALLOCATE.
OUR STRATEGY HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM A DECISIVE LACK-
THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND MAKE USE OF THE ENEMY'S CHIEF NATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC.
GO ON...
AS INDIVIDUALS AND IN SMALL UNITS, THEY ARE DEDICATED, HIGHLY TECHNICALLY SKILLED, AND HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF PERSONAL DUTY.
HAVING RECEIVED AN ORDER, THEY'LL STEADFASTLY CARRY IT OUT TO THE END.
BUT DESPITE THAT, ONCE THEIR ORGANIZATIONS REACH A CERTAIN SIZE,
THEIR TRUE UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BECOMES APPARENT.
FOR EXAMPLE,

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOW SEEKING ASYLUM THERE, A GROUP LED BY A EUROTEAN DUCHESS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ENTERED THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY.
15TH ARMORED DIVISION COMMANDER TAKI REIZEN, WHO ADMINISTERS THE TERRITORY SHE ENTERED,
REQUESTED ORDERS A NUMBER OF TIMES BOTH FROM ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND FROM THE HOME AND EXTERIOR MINISTRIES.
BUT-
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT FROM ABOVE,
ARMY HEADQURTERS WOULDN'T MAKE A DECISION.
THIS LED REIZEN
TO ACT WITHOUT ORDERS.
THEN AFTERWARDS BECAUSE HE'D TAKEN THE DUCHESS PRISONER,
AN ORDER WAS FINALLY ISSUED-
TO PUT REIZEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

IT WAS GIVEN TO THE GENERAL COMMANDING THE FORCES THAT ARE
HOLDING THE FRONT.
THAT'S INSANE.
WE WONDERED IF THEY COULD BE SCHEMING SOMETHING WITH EUROTE,
SO FOR A WHILE, WE ADOPTED A "WAIT AND SEE" APPROACH, BUT...
DESPITE BEING AN ENEMY COMMANDER, REIZEN'S ACTUALLY QUITE AN ALLY FOR OUR SIDE.
はははど
はははは
WELL, IT'S RESULTED IN A NICE VACATION ANYHOW.

NO ONE WANTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.

WHEN THERE'S A HUGE PROBLEM RIGHT IN FRONT OF ONE'S EYES,
IT BECOMES A HABIT TO TURN AWAY AND TRY NOT TO DEAL WITH IT.

WE'VE BEEN REMEMBERING THE HORRIBLE WAY COMBAT WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE GREAT WAR,
AND WE KEEP MISREADING THEM BECAUSE OF IT.

SO THEIR "GOVERNMENT"
IS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF JUST ONE "FAMILY".
AFTER MANY YEARS OF DYNASTIC INTERMARRIAGE, THEY'VE ALL ESSENTIALLY BECOME ONE COMPLICATED GROUP OF BLOOD RELATIONS.
THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY OF THEIR HIGHEST NOBILITY LIVING ON A TINY ISLAND-
JUST UNDER TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE LIVE THERE IN ALL.

NOT FOR THEM.
THEY HAVEN'T FOUGHT, HAVEN'T KILLED EACH OTHER
THEY'VE MAINTAINED THIS UNHEALTHY BALANCE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS-
THAT'S HAPPENED MANY TIMES IN THE HISTORY OF THE WEST AS WELL,
AND CONFRON-TATIONS WITH THOSE DEPRIVED OF INFLUENCE.
AND INEVITABLY, THERE HAVE BEEN POPULAR UPRISINGS
UNTIL NOW.

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEIR SITUATION DEVELOPED THIS WAY-
BUT HOW THEY'LL WANT TO HANDLE IT IS CLEAR.
THEY'LL TAKE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY
IT'S A BIT OF A SHAME, BUT-
LET'S HEAR YOUR CONCLUSION THEN.

TO PICK
A SINGLE ROSE.

'KAY.
LET'S GO.
THERE ARE SOME AMONG THEM WHO WANT TO CHANGE THEIR NATIONAL CHARACTER.
BUT
TO MANEUVER IT
INTO A PARTICULAR POLITICAL SITUATION
A BODY WAKING FROM AN OVERLONG NAP
IS AWFULLY VULNERABLE.

稲荷家房之介先生に感想のお便り待ってます！

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PREPARE THESE FOR ANALYSIS.
FIX SOME IN BALSAM RESIN,
THEN RUN A SCREEN FOR POISON.
HURRY!
ARE THEY FROM THE REMAINS ON THAT TRAIN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
ガチャ
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE NORM.
IF WE CAN GATHER HARD EVIDENCE THAT THEY'D ALREADY DIED FROM POISONING BEFORE THE TIME OF THE RAID, THEN-
SECOND LIEUTENANT, THERE'S A CALL ON LINE EIGHT.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!

SUGURI.
WHO IS IT?
CRAP. HOLD ON A MINUTE.
THEY DIDN'T SAY.
HEY- THE CALL'S BEEN CUT OFF?
HELLO?
HELLO?
カツ

...HAVE A SEAT.
WELL, WELL.
I HARDLY RECOGNIZED YOU.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PAINT ON A THIN LAYER OF KNIGHT-HOOD.
!?

I DON'T RECALL GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO BE HERE.
PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIAT-
I CALLED FOR HER.
コツ
WH-
ガタ
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER-
SINCE BOTH OF YOU
ARE SUSPECTS.
NEXT

translation notes

agent ambiguity in japanese and english

"they'll take this opportunity..." (pgs 9-10)

In grammar, the agent is the cause or initiator of the sentence's verb. In the sentence "Klaus made passionate love to Taki all night long", for example, "Klaus" is the agent.

English is a very agent-focused language but Japanese is not. This difference presents one of the most persistent problems in Japanese to English translation because in many cases to make a natural-sounding English sentence, the translator will have to just take an outright guess at who the sentence's agent is. The sentence at left that I translated "They'll take this opportunity to pick a single rose" is a good example of this problem.

A perfectly literal translation of the sentence would be more like "[Omitted] thinks [omitted] intends to take this opportunity to pick one flower's worth of roses"

Why the "thinks" and "intends" are better left out in the English version of the sentence is the topic of a whole other note (which I'm sure I'll have plenty of opportunities to write later, since it's also a very common problem)- but the worst issue with this sentence is that the agent of the verb "pick" could be either Taki's countrymen or Klaus' boss (the speaker). Depending on who the missing agent is, the sentence would mean two very different things, and it's difficult to leave the agent out in English without making the sentence unnaturally vague.

In the end, based on the general topic of the conversation, the visual metaphor of saving the ant, and on how I read the character of Klaus' boss, I picked "Taki's countrymen (i.e. "they") as the agent. But only time will tell for sure whether my guess was correct or not.

"our strategy has been suffering..." (p. 5)

But now that I've given you the idea that Japanese is vague as to agent and English is concrete, here's a counter-example. This sentence literally reads more or less "As to their chief national characteristic, a lack of ability to understand and truly grasp exists". The agent who lacks the ability could be "they" (Taki's countrymen), "I" (Klaus' boss), "we" (the Western Alliance), or "you" (Monocle Guy).

Based on the rest of the conversation, I think it's most likely that Klaus' boss is saying "You lack the ability to understand them and therefore since you're making the strategy decisions, our strategy up til now has sucked." But even in English, to say this directly would be rude and foolish, so I did the closest thing I could figure to what an English-speaker in that situation would do- substituted a euphemism for "you"- in this case "our strategy". It's imperfect, but the best I could do.